

**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council
General Meeting**

**on
Tuesday, January 11, 2011
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center
10631 Vinedale Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352**

Board Member	Title	Status
Angelica Dueñas	President	Present
Gary Aggas	1 st Vice President	Present
Mike O’Gara	2 nd Vice President	Present
Robert Lim	Treasurer	Present
Julie Monroy	Secretary	Present
Imelda Padilla	Board Member	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Monica Vacas	Board Member	Absent
Karina Garcia Valles	Board Member	Present
Art Kalantarian	Board Member	Present
Vic Hernandez	Board Member	Absent
Gerry Prieto	Board Member	Present
George Ron Dahlquest	Board Member	Absent
Guy Dionne	Board Member	Present
Linda Housden	Board Member	Absence excused
Nicholas Dalton Pawle	Board Member	Present
Fern Romans	Board Member	Present
Danny Bejarano	Board Member	Present
Dalia Galvan	Board Member	Present
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Absent
Luis Medina	Board Member	Absence excused
Wesley Hernandez	Board Member	Resigned
Carlos Coronel	Board Member	Absence excused
Stella Arrington	Board Member	Present

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Code of Civility, Roll Call

- Angelica Dueñas called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and SVANC’s code of civility was also recited
- Angelica Dueñas took roll

ITEM 2: Opening Remarks (President)

- Ms. Dueñas reminded fellow Board members to please speak into the microphone for clarity when transcribing minutes.
- Ms. Dueñas reminded fellow board members to complete the Ethics and Open Government training workshop which can be found online at the website under Item 2A. The deadline for elected board members to take this workshop is March 2011 and is good for two years.

ITEM 2A: Reminder for the members of the SVANC to complete Ethics and Open Government Training for City Officials. Please visit:

<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/education.cfm>

ITEM 3: Emergency Personnel from Fire and Police Departments (Officer Esther Vasquez, Senior Lead Officer, and Officer Michelle Rodriguez, Senior Lead Officer.

- Officer Rodriguez, senior lead officer for the East side of Sun Valley, said that crime in general is low but property crimes remain consistent and that after thorough research of crime spots, police resources are deployed to those locations.
- Officer Rodriguez encouraged community members to report any suspicious activity, especially narcotic activity. The Officer distributed a form to document criminal activity which can be mailed or hand delivered to any LAPD station, and the person making the report can remain anonymous.
- Officer Vasquez brought an application for the \$1,000 reward offered to anyone who reports graffiti vandalism or illegal dumping, if the suspect is convicted. There is a 60-day window from the date the arrest was made to apply for this reward.

ITEM 4: Presentation/announcements from **elected officials** or their representatives.

- Mary Benson, CD2, apologized for the fact that the Councilmember could not be at the meeting and stated that SVANC's next month's meeting date has been penciled in the Councilman's calendar inviting him to attend. Mary encouraged all stakeholders to send in their questions in advance in order for the Councilmember to be better prepared to answer these concerns at the time he is able to attend a SVANC's meeting. All questions and concerns can be emailed to Mary.Benson@lacity.org.
- Mary also stated that the State is going to widen the I-5 Fwy adding two diamond lanes in each direction, starting at the I-170 to the Valley. The state is going to work on bridges, underpasses, overpasses starting this year up until 2012, approximately. Caltrans will provide a road closure schedule.
- Mary said that the City of L.A. is proposing numerous cuts, especially the 50% proposed funding cut for the graffiti programs. This item will be discussed in City Council on January 12, 2010.
- Mary added that L.A. Conservation Corp helps with funding for projects in the community, and she emailed an application to Mike O to apply for these funds.
- Louie Sanchez, Office of the Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes, said that the Assemblyman's office is still analyzing the governor's budget, which includes numerous cuts to numerous services. Mr. Sanchez can be reached at (818) 504-3911 or by email louie.sanchez@asm.ca.gov for any questions or concerns.
- Louie stated that Caltran's road closure schedule for the I-5 work is on the Assemblyman's website.
- Louie said that a Foreclosure Prevention workshop will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, 7915 Van Nuys Blvd., Panorama City, CA 91402, free parking.

- A Foothill Trails NC stakeholder informed Mr. Sanchez that the lot on 9041 Laurel Canyon, right off the Sheldon off ramp & Jerome, was completely graded but it has not been sand bagged causing the dirt to disburse. Mr. Sanchez will look into whether it's a state, a county or a city issue.
- Mr. O'Gara asked Mr. Sanchez to look into the K-rails that Caltrans is placing during the I-5 widening project because they already have graffiti, and asked to look into bringing k-rails without graffiti and/or to paint out the graffiti on the k-rails installed.

ITEM 5A: Councilmember Paul Krekorian will speak with the SVANC and make a presentation as his schedule allows.

- The Councilmember was not able to attend the SVANC's meeting

ITEM 5B: Public Comment:

- Mark Hernandez and Hugo Soto, Platinum Collateral and Loan, announced that they are planning to open a Pawn Broker Business/Secondhand General/Secondhand Jewelry Business on the corner of Roscoe and Laurel Canyon. Mr. Hernandez said that they are planning to beautify the whole area including installing surveillance cameras throughout the area. Mr. Hernandez explained that a Pawn Broker business has to provide a daily report to the LAPD on any items purchased or pawned, and the item purchased is held for 35 days in order for the LAPD to get a chance to do its investigation on the item.
- Nancy Woodruff, Foothill Trails District NC President, said that berms and bike trails for bikes have been illegal built at Verdugo Mountain Park. She added that off-road bikes are illegal in City parks. Ms. Woodruff said that this has been reported and pictures of the berms were given to CD2's field deputy but more information is needed on who is building the illegal bike berms and bike trails.
- Mary Ann Geyer said that she received a late email regarding the City of L.A.'s budget issue and its impact on Sun Valley Graffiti Busters. Ms. Geyer is asking Councilmember Cárdenas' and Councilmember Krekorian's offices to help fund from their budgets the programs for Sun Valley Graffiti Busters.
- Maria Jaques, Sun Valley resident, stated that the Councilmembers are responsible for graffiti abatement and that in the past Councilmember Alarcón funded graffiti cleanup from his own budget. Ms. Jaques was also concerned about the waste companies that are asking for expansion permits. Mike O' asked Julie to get Ms. Jaques' information in order to find out more details about her issues of concern.
- Sam Khalaf, Sun Valley resident, said that as a community the community members need to start participating as volunteers in the community in order to make up for the services that are being cut and/or eliminated.

ITEM 5C: Presentation of candidates running for Councilmember of CD-6

- Mr. David Barron, CD6 Candidate and LAHD's Code Enforcement Official, stated that he is running for City Council in order to help eradicate blight and graffiti in the community and also, if elected, he will repeal the City business tax.
- Stan Thomas, representing CD6 Candidate James Cordero, said that Mr.

Cordero is running for City Council in order to improve the community and he believes in transparency and accountability.

ITEM 6: Board member comments

- Nicholas Pawle stated that Daniel Skolnick (CD6) informed him about upcoming Caltrans Grants that can be found on the Southern California Association of Governments website or on the Caltrans website for the application. These grants are for community beautification and improvements.
- Imelda said that she's going to email Olga, CD6, to ask her to try and be present at future SVANC's meetings in order to hear the community's concerns. Imelda added that she is looking forward to SVANC's plan use upcoming meeting.
- Mike O' said that the information given by Nancy, FTDNC, regarding the illegal berms and bike paths at the City park is a clear case of vandalism and was informed that Councilman Krekorian's office is looking into this matter for possible prosecution. Mike reminded everyone that the Item regarding the proposed budget cuts to Graffiti Busters will be heard in Council on January, 12, 2011 and encouraged all stakeholders who are opposed to this cut to send an email to the Mayor's office and Councilmembers Alarcon & Krekorian by tomorrow morning, but if the budget reduction is approved, then an alternative is to use the Councilmembers' street furniture budget to continue funding the graffiti elimination programs.
- Karina said that it is important to continue planning the town hall meeting because a lot of the community stakeholders are still not aware of the NC and its functions. It was agreed by Board members that the planning process needs to begin now in order to have the tentative town hall meeting in March. Carlos has been leading this effort with the Outreach Committee which includes Carlos, Mike O., Julie, Rob and Angelica. Mike said that an Outreach committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19th at 6:00 pm at SVANC's office.
- Susan stated that the proposed 50% budget cut to the Graffiti elimination program is very serious. She added that Graffiti Buster's budget is \$20,000 per month, of which \$2,000 is for bulky item pick-up and clean-up activities and \$7,400 is for fixed costs, not including payroll. She added that last Friday an emergency meeting was held with the Board of Public Works and the president of the Board stated that she was not aware of this proposed budget cut. Susan added that last year court volunteers gave more than 27,000 service hours, 34 tons of bulk items per month are removed and an average of 150 bags of trash and debris is removed on any given day. Susan also encouraged the stakeholders who are opposed to this cut, to write an email or statement stating the impacts on the community of this action by tomorrow morning before the council meeting and to send the email to Susan@sunvalleygraffitibusters.org.

OLD Business:

ITEM 7: Review, correct and approve minutes from our October and December 2010 meeting. (Julie Monroy)

- Julie stated that the volume on the recording of October 2010 is still being worked on.
- Julie made the motion to approve the December 2010 minutes as amended and was seconded by Mike O.
- The motion carried

NEW Business:

ITEM 8: Committee Reports Treasurer- Outreach- Planning- Community Affairs- By-Laws

- Rob, SVANC's Treasurer, discussed the purchase card monthly expenditures for December, 2010, totaling \$240.93, which include:
 - o Papa John's Pizza \$ 53.29 - pizza for Dec. Board Mtng
 - o AT&T \$ 128.73 - office phone
 - o Time Warner \$ 58.91 - internet service for office
- Rob also stated that two demand warrants were processed each for three months; the first demand warrant was for SVANC's Minutes for the months of July, September and November 2010 for \$690; and for Interpretation services for the months of September, October and November for \$645.
- Rob stated that the total budget remaining is approximately \$77,890 but this amount will be verified by DONE.
- Mike announced the Outreach Committee meeting will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, 6:00 pm at SVANC's office 9000 Sunland Blvd., to discuss the planning of a possible town hall meeting.
- Mike said regarding the Planning Committee that Monica, Gary and Mike attended a regular planning meeting last Saturday down town. He added that Monica changed SVANC's Planning Committee meeting to the last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm, at SVANC's office 9000 Sunland Blvd. He added that an invitation was extended to the men who are planning to open a Pawn shop and simultaneously an inquiry was made to the LAPD and CD6 regarding the number of Pawn shops in Sun Valley and what problems, if any, have occurred.
- No updates from the Community Affairs Committee.
- Mike O. said regarding the Bylaws Committee that he met with DONE's staff and with a member from Valley Village NC to work on a rough draft for the Bylaws. Mike will give the information to Art, who is the chair of this committee.

ITEM 9: Updates from Regional Budget Representatives on Mayor's Budget Survey (LIM)

- Rob said that the Budget survey is scheduled to launch on line at www.budget.lacity.org. This year's budget was fully implemented in English only, but Spanish, Korean and Tagalo languages are available on a link on the website which users can download.
- Rob added that the Mayor is increasing its outreach efforts to get this survey out to the community using sources like DWP insert mailers, the libraries, Ch. 35, 311, etc.
- Rob said that the members of the Finances and Data analysis committee will

meet with various City officials regarding the budget with the objective to establish a rapport and to gain access to their financial books. He added that they met with the CAO's office and the message from the meeting was to keep an eye on pension reform. Rob stated that there is also a separate City Attorney committee because it has been impacted greatly due to the budget cuts; for example, in 2009 the City Attorney operated with \$154 million, and it was reduced to \$90 million in 2010, and further cuts are expected in 2011. This means that the neighborhood prosecutors program will be cut, no city attorney's will be present at area planning commission meetings, etc. This committee's goals are to work parallel with the City Controller's office in cases where debt collections can be pursued through legal means. Rob added that a meeting with the City Controller's office has been scheduled for Thursday, January 13th.

ITEM 10: Discuss By-Laws Committee and commence the revision of SVANC By-Laws. (DUENAS)

- See Item 8 above. Angelica encouraged anyone interested in participating in this committee are more than welcome to attend and share your suggestions.

ITEM 11: Public comment – none

ITEM 12: Adjournment – After a motion and a vote to adjourn, the meeting adjourned at approximately 08:20 pm.